



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Press Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

For Immediate Release: November 22, 2006

06-77

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LAUNCHES PHONE INFORMATION LINE
FOR LATEST ON WATER QUALITY AT HAWAII BEACHES**

HONOLULU - The Hawaii State Department of Health has launched a new phone information line for callers to check the status of the waters at Hawaii's beaches. The public can now call **(808) 586-5826** for the latest on where water contamination warning signs are posted and areas where warning signs have been removed. The phone recording will be kept current and updated.

"With the holidays coming up, we know people are going to want to know about swimming at the beaches. This hotline is our effort to help provide the public with timely information," said Deputy Director for Environmental Health Laurence Lau.

Warning signs are currently posted by the City along the Ala Wai Canal to Magic Island and the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor in response to yesterday's 800 gallon wastewater spill into the canal. Water quality samples have been collected by the City for testing. The public is advised to stay out of the water in areas where signs are posted. Surfers should stay away from surf sites fronting Magic Island and Ala Wai Yacht Harbor. These surf sites include Secrets, Bamburas, Ala Moana Bowl, Rock Pile, In-betweens and Kaisers.

Information on current water contamination warnings, advisories and beach closures can also be viewed online at www.hawaii.gov/health by clicking on "Contaminated Water Warnings."

Requests for water quality sample test results can be made with the Monitoring and Compliance Branch of the Environmental Quality Division of the City and County of Honolulu's Environmental Services Department. Call (808) 692-5371.

###

For more information contact:
Janice Okubo
Communications Office
Telephone: (808) 586-4442